

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ALBANY DIVISION

ALONZO JOHNSON, JR.,

Petitioner,

v.

JAMIL SABA,

Respondent.

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 1:07-CV-81 (WLS)

ORDER

Petitioner **ALONZO JOHNSON, JR.**, an inmate at the Dougherty County Jail in Albany, Georgia, has filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. §2254. He has paid the \$5.00 filing fee.

According to his submissions, petitioner was found guilty of five counts of aggravated assault on August 17, 2006. The habeas corpus petition shows that petitioner did not appeal this conviction. Petitioner's habeas corpus petition also shows that he has not previously filed any "petitions, applications, or motions" with respect to his case in any state court.

Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts provides in relevant part:

The original [habeas corpus] petition shall be presented promptly to a judge of the district court in accordance with the procedure of the court for the assignment of its business. The petition shall be examined promptly by the judge to whom it is assigned. **If it plainly appears from the face of the petition and any exhibits annexed to it that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge shall make an order for its summary dismissal and cause the petitioner to be notified.** (emphasis added)

Upon initial review of the petition filed herein, it clearly appears from the face of the petition that the petitioner has not exhausted state remedies available to him. According to petitioner's submissions, petitioner has not filed a writ of habeas corpus in the state courts.

It has been well-settled for over a century that "a state prisoner must normally exhaust available state judicial remedies before a federal court will entertain his petition for habeas corpus." *Picard v. Connor*, 404 U.S. 270, 275 (1971) (citing *Ex Parte Royall*, 117 U.S. 241 (1886)). This exhaustion requirement has been codified in 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (b)-(c). The exhaustion requirement reflects a policy of comity between state and federal courts and is "an accommodation of our federal system designed to give the State an initial 'opportunity to pass upon and correct' alleged violations of its prisoners' federal rights." *Wilwording v. Swenson*, 404 U.S. 249, 250 (1971) (quoting *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 438 (1963)). Moreover, "[a] state shall not be deemed to have waived the exhaustion requirement or be estopped from reliance upon the requirement unless the state, through counsel, expressly waives the requirement." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(3). The State of Georgia has a stated policy of not waiving exhaustion.

Under the above circumstances, the petitioner cannot proceed in federal court with a habeas corpus petition at this time. He must first exhaust his remedies in the state courts. Once he has completed all avenues available to him in the state courts, he will then be permitted to return to federal court. Accordingly, the instant petition is hereby **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** to the right of the petitioner to refile once he has afforded the state courts an opportunity to review his grounds for relief.

SO ORDERED, this 18th day of May, 2007.



W. LOUIS SAND, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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